CLAIMS

1. A collapsible container comprising a base, a top ring and a wall peripherally fixed to said base and top ring and extending therebetween, said container being adjustable between an expanded position with the top ring spaced upward from said base and forming a container interior, and a collapsed position with said top ring surrounding said base in outwardly spaced substantially concentric relation thereto, said wall comprising multiple upwardly extending peripherally continuous sections which, in the expanded position of said container, angle alternately outward and inward relative to the container interior, said sections, in the collapsed position of said container, being folded on each other and concentrically received generally between the base and the top ring with the sections encircling the base and in turn being encircled by said top ring.

2. The container of claim 1 wherein the sections include a lowermost section joined to said base, a topmost section joined to said top ring, and intermediate sections between said lowermost and topmost sections, said sections, from said lowermost section to said topmost section each sequentially defining a peripherally encompassed area generally progressively greater than the base.

3. The container of claim 2 wherein the sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, the angular

joints being obtuse angles in said expanded position of said container, said sections, in said collapsed position, being generally parallel to each other and concentrically surrounding said base between the base and top ring.

4. The container of claim 3 wherein each section is of a predetermined height with an upper minor portion of each section having a greater degree of flexibility than the remaining major portion of the section and defining a flexure zone between joined sections below the angular joint of each said section to the section thereabove.

5. The container of claim 4 wherein the obtuse angles formed by the joined sections in the expanded position of the container are, upward from the base, oppositely laterally angled inward and outward relative to the container interior and define a series of inwardly directed angles and a series of outwardly directed angles, the angles of each series, sequentially upward from the base are outwardly offset from the next lower angle in that series whereby an upwardly and outwardly extending wall is defined.

6. The container of claim 5 wherein each of said wall sections below said upper portion is of a predetermined thickness, said upper portion of each section being of a

thickness less than the thickness of the major portion of the section therebelow.

7. The container of claim 2 wherein each section includes an upper portion and a lower portion below the upper portion, said upper portion forming a flexure zone, each lower portion being of a greater rigidity than the associated flexure zone formed by the upper portion.

8. The container of claim 7 wherein said lowermost section surrounds and is fixed to said base.

9. The container of claim 7 wherein said lowermost section is of a lesser height than said base and said sections thereabove.

10. The container of claim 1 wherein said base has a bottom surface defining a support plane, said folded sections in the collapsed position of the container being positioned above said defined support plane.

11. The container of claim 1 wherein the sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, the angular joints being obtuse angles in said expanded position of said container, said sections, in said collapsed position, being aligned with and generally parallel to each other and

concentrically surrounding said base between the base and top ring.

12. The container of claim 1 wherein said sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, each section being of a predetermined height with an upper portion of each section having a greater degree of flexibility than the remaining portion of the section therebelow and defining a flexure zone between joined sections below the angular joint of each said section to the section thereabove.

13. The container of claim 12 wherein each of said wall sections below said upper portion is of a predetermined thickness, said upper portion of each section being of a thickness less than the thickness of the portion of the section therebelow.

14. The container of claim 1 wherein said base includes a bottom with a central upwardly projecting push bump defining an area adapted to accommodate downward pressure thereon for downward movement of the base relative to the top ring and a corresponding expansion of the container wall.

15. The container of claim 14 wherein said top ring includes a circumferential outwardly extending flange defining means for grasping the top ring as pressure is applied to the push bump.

16. The container of claim 15 wherein said push bump defines a concave downwardly opening recess in said base bottom, and a manually engageable pull bar fixed transversely across said recess for a manual downward pulling of said base relative to said top ring.

17. The container of claim 1 wherein said top ring includes an upwardly extending ring wall, and a separate seal positionable over said top ring and being releasably fixed to said ring wall in both the expanded and collapsed position of said container.

18. A collapsible container comprising a base, a top ring and a wall peripherally fixed to said base and top ring and extending vertically therebetween, said container being adjustable between an expanded position forming an open interior, and a collapsed position, said wall comprising multiple upwardly extending peripherally continuous sections which, in the expanded position of the container, are edge joined to adjacent sections at angled joints which alternate inward and outward relative to the container interior along the height of the wall from the base to the top ring, each section being of a predetermined height and, for a major portion of this height, being of a predetermined thickness limiting flexibility, each section having a minor upper

portion thereof having a greater degree of flexibility and defining a flexure zone within the section itself immediately below the angled joint with an adjacent section thereabove, said minor portion of greater flexibility being of a thickness less than said predetermined thickness of the major portion of the section.

19. The container of claim 18 wherein each minor portion of less thickness is, in the expanded position of the container, generally arcuate and defines an arcuate continuation of the remainder of the associate section.

20. The container of claim 19 wherein each minor portion is laterally folded on itself in the collapsed position of the container.